Import of drugs and drug intermediates

1124. DR. JOSEPH LEON D'SOUZA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that drugs and drug intermediates are allowed for import by actual users, export houses and tarding houses as per appendix 6, List 8, Part II of the current Import Trade Control Policy;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that all bulk drugs and drug intermediates though being produced in the country, can also be imported;

(c) if so, what is the objective behind such a move and whether such a step is in accordance with the overall policy of Government; and

(d) what are the names of the items deleted?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The policy for the import of various items including drugs is decided in consultation with the concerned technical authorities keeping in view country's demand, production, installed capacity, prices and other relevant factors.

There is a standing arrangement to review the policy from time to time and corrective measures are taken as and when the situation so warrants. These changes are notified by means of Public Notices published in Official Gazette, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

Criteria for inclusion of bulk drugs under OGL

1125. DR. JOSEPH LEON D'SOUZA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the criteria which determine the import of bulk drugs and drug intermediates for inclusion under OGL;

(b) whether the list of import of such items was reviewed after the announcement of the Import Policy;

(c) if so, how many times in a year it was reviewed; and

(d) what are the names of the items deleted?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) to (d) The policy for the import of various items including drugs is decided in consultantion with the concerned technical authorities keepng in view country's demand, production installed capacity; prices and other relevant factors.

There is a standing arrangement to review the policy from time to time and corrective measures are taken as and when the situation so warrants. These changes are notified by means of Public Notices published in Official Gazette, copies of which are available in the Parliament Libarary.

Proposals for opening of new branches of banks

1126. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of proposals for opening of new bank branches consequent on the announcement of new five year (1985—90) branch licencing policy of the Reserve Bank of India are pending clearance; and

(b) if so, how many such proposals (with the proposed areas) are pending clearance stating the reasons for the delay in taking a decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The branch licensing policy for the period 1982—85 expired on 31-3-1985. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the proposals received from the